

**Rhode Island Department of Health
Women's Health Advisory Committee
Draft Meeting Minutes – February 6, 2008**

Members Present: Marie Ghazal, Melanie Duhamel, Catherine Graziano, Christine Ryan, Katie Albert, Iris Tong, Cynthia Rosengard, Lisa Shea, Janet Searles, Kristina Diamond, Jessica Marfeo, Marian Mehegan, Carrie Bridges

Members Excused Absent: Marlene McCarthy, Danielle Denis, Margaret Koch, Yvonne Freeman, Kate McCarthy-Barnett, Janet Searles

Members Unexcused Absent: Wendy Fox, Janae Ashley, Chasity Hernandez, Lisa Jones

Welcome & Introductions

Iris Tong called the meeting to order at 3:07 pm.

Approval of Minutes (January 9, 2008)

Marie Ghazal led the WHAC in review of the minutes. Minutes were accepted with the following correction- The WHAC will compose a letter to Dr. Gifford that will (1) highlight support of the WHAC, (2) express the need for funding for Women's Health, (3) highlight accomplishments of the WHAC and OWH, and (4) identify potential projects.

New Projects Update

WHAC will submit a letter to Dr. Gifford that will (1) highlight support of the WHAC, (2) express the need for funding for Women's Health, (3) highlight accomplishments of the WHAC and OWH, and (4) identify potential projects. All proposed new projects will be presented but 1-2 will be highlighted for 2008. Cynthia, Iris, and Marie will staff an ad-hoc committee to draft the letter for review at the March meeting. Goal is to send the letter to Dr. Gifford in March.

See attached list of potential projects.

Teen Ambassador Projects

Marie Ghazal led review and finalization of teen ambassador projects.

o Katie Albert: Environment and its impact on breast cancer (Mentor- Marlene McCarthy). Katie is also doing a research paper on this.

o Melanie Duhamel: Mixed martial arts and basic self-defense class (Mentor- Danielle Denis). Melanie is working with the head of PE at her school to set a date for the class. Her martial arts instructor volunteered to teach a class both at her school and for the WHAC.

Tentative date for the WHAC self-defense class is March 22 at 2 pm at the studio in Smithfield. Melanie will also make a pocket guide describing how to prevent unsafe situations and how to protect oneself.

o Jessica Marfeo: Fundraiser to raise awareness of the need to educate teen girls on the importance of STD and pregnancy

prevention (Mentor- Yvonne Freeman or Catherine Graziano). Proceeds will go to S-Star Birth in Cranston. "It's All About Me" event will kick off with a church mass to which congregants will bring donations for S-Star Birth. Later in the week, a girls night seminar will be held to educate young women about STDs and teen pregnancy.

Regional Report

No regional report.

Staff Report

Carrie Bridges briefly reported on the May 1 Women's Health Conference and progress on the Women's Health Action Plan.

Announcements

- 1) AMBI Skincare Scholarships (contact Carrie for more info)
- 2) Miriam Hospital 2008 Women's Wellness Workshop at the Crowne Plaza on March 15
- 3) Copies of the 2008 Women's Health Calendar are available (see Carrie)
- 4) Primetime Health Fair on April 30 at the Warwick Mall

Next Meeting is March 5, 2008.

Proposed 2008 WHAC Projects

Proposed Project Goal of WHAC/OMH Issues/Factors Existing Activity and/or Potential Partners

1. Promote healthy relationships for teenage girls. Partner with existing community groups to provide education · Provider/patient confidentiality and trust · Childhood sexual abuse · Attorney General's Office had/has a program for high schools on this topic · Day One · Women's Center of RI · Injury Prevention Program · School-aged and Adolescent Health Program · Family Planning Program · School Nurse Teachers

2. Promote implementation of the Perry-Sullivan Bill Partner with existing community groups to support implementation of the bill · Has Dr. Gifford already taken a stand on this? If so, what is his position? · Senior Fact Book released in January 2008 by Senior Agenda Consortium · Need to determine who else is working on this- DEA, SAC, Governor's Long-term Care Coordinating Council?

3. Sexual Abuse Awareness Increase awareness about prevalence of sexual abuse in RI and nationally · Sex workers · Sex trafficking · Effects of sexual trauma on refugees · Relevant legislation in RI · Role of substance abuse in sexual abuse · Adverse Childhood Experience Survey (CDC & Kaiser Permanente)

4. Increase breast cancer screening rates among senior women. Statewide campaign in partnership with senior centers and other community groups to encourage women 65+ to get annual mammogram · Medicare covers a mammogram only once every two years · RI Cancer Control Coalition is going to senior centers to get

women to sign up for a mammogram and gives a \$10 voucher as an incentive

5. Promote breast and cervical cancer screening among incarcerated women ages 50-64. (To be determined upon further discussion with Jennifer Clarke and other appropriate partners) · What are the breast and cervical cancer screening rates among incarcerated women 50-64 y/o in RI? · Do private and public insurance benefits extend to women who are incarcerated? · Women's Prison - Jennifer Clarke, MD

8. Increase access to health care for uninsured women. Participate in the development of a primary care agenda for HEALTH